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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,968	12/29/2003	Douglas Tarr	PAYS0001	2705

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EXAMINER
VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3623	

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/748,968	TARR ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Beth Van Doren	3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>29 December 2003</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-110* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-110* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The following is a non-final, first office action on the merits. Claims 1-110 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention.

Claim 26 recites the limitation "classifying each match score". There is insufficient

antecedent basis for this limitation in claim 26 or in claim 22, the claim on which claim 26

depends. For examination purposes, claim 26 has been construed as dependent on claim 24

because claim 24 contains the limitation "match score". Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-73, 76-94, and 96-110 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Turnasella (U.S. 2003/0145015).

4.   As per claim 1, Turnasella teaches a method for surveying a user comprising the steps of:

presenting at least one question to said user, said at least one question being pertinent in

determining at least one affinity group to which said user belongs (See at least paragraphs 0006,

0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein at least one question is presented to a user

and used to group the user with others of similar backgrounds and attributes);

creating a user profile for said user based on said user's answers to said at least one

question, wherein said user profile is comprised of said at least one question and at least one

corresponding answer (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055,

wherein a user profile is created and stored);

adding said user profile to at least one affinity group (See at least figures 17-18,

paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the profile is added to the

subgroup); and

storing said user profile (See at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036,

0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the profile is stored in the system).

5.   As per claim 2, Turasella teaches wherein said question is comprised of a set comprising

at least one question group that forms a logical grouping of question fields into a single record

(See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the questions

are grouped into a record).

6.   As per claim 3, Turasella teaches wherein said method further comprises the step of:

presenting at least one additional question in response to said at least one question presented to

said user (See at least figures 20-21, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055,

wherein additional fields to fill out are presented to the user).

7.   As per claim 4, Turasella discloses wherein said at least one additional question is presented at least with regard to a defined relation to said at least one question (See at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the user is presented other questions based on affiliation to a subgroup based on a previous answer).

8.   As per claim 5, Turnasella teaches wherein said at least one corresponding answer comprises an open text (See at least figures 9 and 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein text is entered).

9.   As per claim 6, Turnasella wherein said open text allows said user to add a new answer value for said at least one corresponding answer (See at least 0055, wherein new job summaries can be developed).

10.   As per claim 7, Turnasella teaches wherein said new answer is used as one of said respective answers when said at least one question is subsequently posed to a second user (See at least 0055, wherein the new answer is used in later surveys).

11.   As per claim 8, Turnasella teaches wherein at least one question comprises at least two possible answers (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein more than one answer is possible).

12.   As per claim 9, Turnasella teaches wherein said user may select more than one answer to said question (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein more than one answer is selectable).

13.   As per claim 10, Turnasella teaches wherein said at least two possible answers are presented because of at least a defined relation to said at least one question (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055).

14.   As per claim 11, Turnasella teaches wherein said method further comprises the step of:

filtering said user's answers to said question (See at least paragraphs 0047-0051 and 0053,

wherein the answers are filter; the user is filtered into a group and the answers are filtered for

reporting purposes).

15.   As per claim 12, Turnasella discloses wherein said filtering step is performed in at least

one of real-time; and batch mode (See at least paragraphs 0047-0051 and 0053, wherein the

answers are filter; the user is filtered into a group and the answers are filtered for reporting

purposes).

16.   As per claim 13, Turnasella discloses wherein said filtering step further comprises the

step of: modifying an answer to said question based on at least consistency with answers of said

affinity group (See at least paragraphs 0055).

17.   As per claim 14, Turnasella teaches wherein said modification comprises at least

omission of said answer (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048,

0055, wherein the answer is changed and the old answer omitted).

18.   As per claims 15-17, Turnasella discloses a method further comprising the steps of

periodically creating a new affinity group and associating at least one user to said new affinity

group and a user creating a new affinity group and associating matching user profiles with said

new affinity group (See at least paragraph 0048 and 0055, wherein a new group is created and

users are associated with these new groups).

19.   As per claim 18, Turnasella teaches a method further comprising the step of: providing a

report (See at least 0047, 0050, and 0052, which discloses reporting).

20. As per claim 19, Turnasella disclose a method wherein generation of said report is constrained by at least a reporting goal (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0047-0051, 0053, and 0055, wherein the report is constrained by parameters that reflect the goal of the report).

21. As per claim 20, Turnasella teaches a method wherein said goal comprises at least a profile attribute value (See at least 0049-0050, wherein the parameters include profile attributes).

22. As per claim 21, Turnasella teaches a method further comprising the step of: weighting said constraints to provide a match score (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0047-0051, 0053, and 0055, wherein the user selects parameters by which the total is limited. Also, weighted averages may be provided).

23. As per claim 22, Turnasella teaches said step of providing said report comprising the step of matching between at least a matchfield of said goal and a corresponding matchfield of at least one of: an affinity group; and a user profile (See at least 0031, 0049-0050, 0053, and 0057, wherein the parameters are matched).

24. As per claim 23, Turnasella teaches a method further comprising the step of determining at least one best match from a plurality of possible matches (See at least 0031, 0049-0050, 0053, and 0057, wherein at least one best match is provided in the report).

25. As per claim 24, Turnasella discloses a method further comprising the step of: arranging matches by order of match score, said order being grouped to at least two levels of matches, based on said score (See at least paragraph 0050, wherein the matches are arranged using scores, the matches grouped in at least 2 levels).

26. As per claim 25, Turnasella discloses said step of matching further comprising the step of: providing an aggregated score for said matching step; and weighting the importance of

including said match in said report (See at least 0031, 0049-0050, 0053, and 0057, wherein an

aggregated score is provided after matching the members and the combined information is

weighted to produce things like weighted averages).

27.   As per claim 26, Turnasella discloses said step of matching further comprising the step

of: classifying each match score as one of: deterministic to meeting said goal; and non-

deterministic to meeting said goal (See at least 0031, 0049-0050, 0053, and 0057).

28.   As per claim 27, Turnasella teaches a method wherein said goal is an external goal,

wherein said external goal is a result of a plurality of arbitrary inputs (See at least paragraphs

0047-0051, wherein the goal results from a plurality of possible inputs).

29.   As per claim 28, Turnasella wherein said aggregated information comprises statistical

information (See at least paragraph 0050, which comprises statistical information).

30.   As per claim 29, Turnasella teaches wherein a report comprises: resulting from a personal

goal a comparison of a user having said user profile to at least a plurality of user profiles (See at

least 0031, 0047, 0050, and 0052-0053, and 0055-0056, wherein the user generates the profile

report that compares salary wages).

31.   As per claim 30, Turnasella discloses a method for performing a compensation survey of

a user, comprising the steps of:

        presenting at least one question to said user to determine at least compensation within an

affinity group of said user (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048,

0055, wherein at least one question is presented to a user to determine wages in a subgroup);

creating a user profile for said user based on said user's answers to said question, wherein

said user profile is comprised of said question and at least one corresponding answer (See

paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055. A profile is created and stored);

adding said user profile to at least one affinity group (See at least figures 17-18,

paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the profile is added);

storing said user profile (See at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036,

0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the profile is stored in the system).

32.   Claims 31-46 recite equivalent limitations to claims 2-17, respectively, and are rejected

using the same art and rationale as applied above.

33.   As per claim 47, Turnasella teaches wherein said affinity group comprises at least

profession and geographic location (See at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033,

0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055).

34.   As per claim 48, Turnasella further comprising the step of: providing a compensation

report (See at least paragraphs 0050 and 0053).

35.   As per claim 49, Turnasella teaches said compensation report is constrained by at least

one of: an attribute of said user profile; and a reporting goal (See at least paragraphs 0047-0051

and 0053-0056, wherein the report is constrained by parameters of the user profile (contributor v.

subscriber and part of the subgroup v. not part of the subgroup) and well as the reporting goal as

defined by the parameters).

36.   As per claim 51, Turnasella teaches said goal comprising at least one of a desired

geographic location (See at least paragraphs 0048 and 0050, which discusses geographic region).

37.   Claims 50, 52-57, 59, and 61 recite equivalent limitations to claims 21, 22-27, 28, and 29, respectively, and are rejected using the same art and rationale as applied above.

38.   As per claim 58, Turnsella teaches said personal goal comprising at least geographic location (See at least paragraphs 0048 and 0050, which discusses geographic region).

40.   As per claim 60, Turnasella teaches wherein said statistical information comprises at least one of average compensation, average salary, median compensation, median salary, salary percentile, standard deviation; trend, profile count, most frequent compensation, or most frequent salary (See at least paragraph 0050).

41.   As per claim 62, Turnasella teaches wherein said compensation comprising at least annual salary (See at least 0049 and 0050 and figure 9, which discloses such salary information).

42.   As per claim 63, Turnasella teaches an apparatus for compensation surveying and reporting, comprising: means for accessing a Web site, said Web site being accessible via a network (See at least figures 1 and 17 and paragraphs 0006, 0029-0031, 0048, 0055, and 0057).

means for surveying a user for information pertinent for determination of compensation (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein at least one question is presented to a user to group the user with others of similar backgrounds);

means for creating a user profile for said user based on gathering of said information, said user profile further comprised of at least one question and at least one corresponding answer (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein a user profile is created and stored);

means for storing said user profile (See at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the profile is stored in the system);

means for at least periodically generating at least an affinity group comprising a plurality

of user profiles (See at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048,

0055, wherein a subgroup is created and the user is responsible for updating his/her data); and

means for matching an attribute of said user profile with at least one affinity group (See

at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055).

43.   As per claim 64, Turnasella teaches an apparatus further comprising: means for selecting

at least one affinity group to which said user profile best matches (See at least figures 17-18,

paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055).

44.   As per claim 65, Turnasella teaches an apparatus wherein said network is at least the

Internet (See at least figures 1 and 17 and paragraphs 0006, 0029-0031, 0048, 0055, and 0057).

45.   As per claim 66, Turnasella teaches an apparatus further comprising: means for reporting

results based on a reporting goal (See at least paragraphs 0047-0051 and 0055, which disclose

means for reporting based on a reporting goal).

46.   As per claim 69, Turnasella teaches said reporting goal comprising at least salary range

or total compensation calculations (See at least figure 9 and paragraphs 0050).

47.   As per claim 76, Turnasella wherein said reporting goal provides aggregated information

pertaining to a plurality of user profiles (See at least paragraphs 0047-0051 and 0055, wherein

the report reflects aggregated information of a plurality of profiles).

48.   Claims 67, 70, 71, 72 73, 77, and 78 recite equivalent limitations to claims 22, 47, 62, 27,

58, 28, and 60, respectively, and are rejected using the same art and rationale as applied above.

49.   As per claim 79, Turnasella discloses said means for surveying further comprising:

means for suggesting at least a question from a plurality of survey questions (See at least

paragraph 0055, wherein the survey is built and the questions suggested to users).

50.   Claim 80 recites equivalent limitations to claim 8 and is therefore rejected using the same

art and rationale as applied above.

51.   As per claim 81, Turnasella teaches wherein said possible answers are a subset of a

plurality of answers, wherein said subset being selected at least in respect of said user profile

(See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the subset is

based on subgroup affiliation).

52.   As per claim 82, Turnasella teaches wherein said user may select at least one answer to

said question (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein a

user selects an answer).

53.   Claims 83-85 recite equivalent limitations to claims 5-7, respectively, and are therefore

rejected using the same art and rationale as applied in the rejections of claims 5-7, respectively.

54.   As per claim 86, Turnasella teaches wherein a subsequent question is selected from a

plurality of possible questions (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044,

0048, 0055, wherein more than one question is presented to a user).

55.   As per claim 87, Turnasella discloses wherein said selection from a plurality of possible

question is tailored to correspond with said user profile (See at least paragraph 0055, wherein the

questions are tailored and asked of specific subgroup members).

56.   As per claim 88, Turnasella teaches wherein upon selection of an answer by said user,

said user profile is associated with an affinity group (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033,

0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the selected answers place the user in an affinity group).

57.   As per claim 89 and 90, Turnasella teaches wherein said means for surveying enable said

user to add a new question and said user may add a new answer to said question (See at least

paragraph 0055, wherein a new answer is added).

58.   As per claim 91, Turnasella discloses wherein said affinity groups are created based on at

least a commonality between at least one attribute and at least one corresponding value (See at

least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 005).

59.   As per claim 92, Turnasella teaches a method for surveying, comprising the steps of:

        asking a first question from a user (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038,

0044, 0048, 0055, wherein at least one question is presented to a user);

        receiving an answer from said user (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036,

0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein an answer is received);

        storing said first question and said answer in a user profile respective of said user (See at

least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the

data is stored in the system);

        adding said user profile to at least one matching affinity group (See at least figures 17-18,

paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0055, wherein the profile is added to the

subgroup);

optionally filtering said answer based on said user profile and said at least one affinity

group (See at least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0050,

0055, wherein the answer is filtered based on the user and group);

modifying said answer if it is inconsistent with at least said affinity group (See at least

paragraph 0055);

determining an appropriate next question to be presented to said user (See at least 0055,

wherein a survey is presented to the user based on the modification); and

repeating the foregoing steps until a full profile is established (See at least 0006, 0031-

0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0051, and 0055).

60.   As per claim 93, Turnasella teaches a method further comprising the steps of: at least

periodically checking all user profiles; and generating an affinity group, wherein said affinity

group comprises at least a user profile (See at least 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048,

0051, and 0055, wherein profiles are periodically updated and affinity groups generated).

61.   As per claim 97, Turnasella discloses a method further comprising the step of: querying

any of a database of a plurality of user profiles and a database of a plurality of affinity groups for

a statistical report (See at least paragraphs 0047-0051 and 0055, wherein a database of profiles in

subgroups is used to generate the report).

62.   Claims 94, 96, and 98 recite equivalent limitations to claims 19, 10, and 60, respectively,

and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale as applied above.

63.   As per claim 99, Turnasella teaches the step of: generating said statistical report with at

least one of said attributes held constant (See at least 0047, 0050, and 0052).

64.   Claims 100-102, 103-108, 109, and 110 recite equivalent limitations to claims 19-21, 23-

28, 60, and 29, respectively, and are rejected using the same art and rationale as applied above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

65.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 74, 75, and 95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Turnasella (U.S. 2003/0145015).

66.   As per claims 74 and 75, Turnasella teaches a user profile and a personal goal in

connection with said user profile and said affinity group (See at least paragraphs 0006, 0031-

0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048-0050, and 0055). However, Turnasella does not expressly

disclose that the personal goal or user profile comprise likes of said user.

Turnasella discloses an on-line system wherein a user registers with the system and

answers survey questions, such as job type, industry, and other account information. It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include likes

of the user in the profile of the user in order to more accurately match information to the needs of

a specific user by having a more complete view of the user's profile.

#.   As per claim 95, Turnasella teaches the step of optionally filtering said answer (See at

least figures 17-18, paragraphs 0006, 0031-0033, 0036, 0038, 0044, 0048, 0050, 0055).

However, Turnasella does not expressly disclose filtering being performed in an off-line mode.

Turnasella teaches a website system that stores answer data concerning different

participants of the system and further allows a specific user to generate reports by filtering the

answers based on the needs indicated by the user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time of the invention to perform this filtering off-line in order to increase the

efficiency of the website by reducing the amount processing that occurs on-line at the site. It

was well known in the art at the time of the invention to perform processing off-line at websites

to reduce delays and traffic at the site.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

Cullen (US 2003/0204439) teaches resource profiles and specific compensation

information related with the profile.

Almog et al. (US 2002/0002479) teaches a career system that stores profiles and matches

users and jobs.

Coleman et al. (US 2003/0004748) discloses obtaining compensation data associated

with a job category and predicting further compensation data.

Beck et al. (US 6,587,832) discloses a system for observing market rates.

Clark et al. (US 2003/0083921) teaches a system for exchanging job related information.

"Market Based Compensation Survey" (compensate.com) discloses assessing a labor

market's pricing dynamic.

"Compensate.com Industrial Surveys" (compensate.com) discloses online salary surveys

and provides data, including statistical data.

Compensate.com (San Francisco Production Group) discloses market based compensation systems which reports market data.

MarketPay Associates (MarketPay.com) discloses online, interactive market pay surveys.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (703) 305-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.
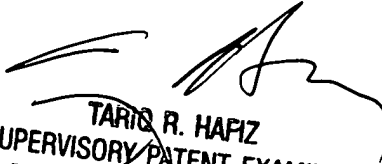
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bvd
October 13, 2004

TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600